

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

CENTRIA

Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center

CENTRIA Prepares for the Future by Implementing Lean / Six Sigma Methodology

Client Profile:

CENTRIA, located in Frankfort, Kentucky is a leader in high performance building enclosure systems. The company brings a unique combination of engineering, manufacturing and construction expertise to owners, architects, engineers and contractors around the world. CENTRIA's comprehensive line of building products and services is designed to meet both the aesthetic and functional challenges of nonresidential construction. The company, founded in 1906, employs 94 people.

Situation:

CENTRIA management wanted to transform their facility into a showplace where employees' pride would be evident, customers would use it as a model for all of their suppliers, and other facilities could model similar programs to make them more efficient. After working with the Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center (KMAC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, on a quality system project, CENTRIA's Frankfort Plant decided to have KMAC assist with the implementation of Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma methodology.

Solution:

KMAC's Lean / Six Sigma experts helped CENTRIA associates understand and apply these concepts by conducting several Lean classes followed by implementation events and mentoring of a Green Belt candidate. During the Lean / Six Sigma events, KMAC showed CENTRIA associates how to use Lean / Six Sigma to improve the organization and safety of the workplace while eliminating non-value added activities and improving product flow. At the conclusion of the events, CENTRIA personnel had developed skills that will enable them to spread Lean / Six Sigma throughout the facility.

Results:

- * Realized \$250,000 in cost savings.
- * Improved employee morale.

Testimonial:

"I feel the purpose of Lean / Six Sigma is to help companies flourish in today's market where customers expect high quality and fast delivery at a minimal cost. Lean and Six Sigma concepts and methods used at CENTRIA's Frankfort Plant help the team members to improve their workplace in both quality and safety standards for both customers and themselves."

Gary P. Brunette, Jr., Plant Leader